

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02369 241825Z  
ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PCAT, PARM, UR, US  
SUBJ: US-SOVIET CAT: JULY 24 MEETING OF SENIOR MILITARY  
REPRESENTATIVES

REF: HELSINKI 2295

BEGIN SUMMARY: SECOND MEETING OF MILITARY REPS WAS  
CHARACTERIZED BY CONTINUED SOVIET EMPHASIS ON OVERRIDING  
IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL/LEGAL CRITERIA AND SPECIFIC MENTION  
OF CHINA AS AN "EXAMPLE" OF AREA WHICH ONE MIGHT ASSESS  
IN TERMS OF MILITARY BALANCE. US SIDE GAVE PRESENTATION  
ON POSSIBLE WAYS OF ASSESSING BALANCE IN PARTICULAR REGION  
OR SUB-REGIONS. SOVIET SAID BASICALLY REITERATED SAME POINTS  
THAT IT MADE DURING MAY SESSION ABOUT HOW SOVIETS HANDLE  
ARMS REQUESTS, AND STRESSED PRINCIPLED SUPPORT OF VICTIMS  
OF AGGRESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. SECOND MEETING OF SENIOR MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES TOOK  
PLACE JULY 24 FROM 1000-1230 WITH SAME PARTICIPANTS AS  
FIRST SESSION (REFTEL). RADM LYONS STRESSED IN OPENING  
REMARKS THAT REPS SHOULD DIRECT ATTENTION TO MECHANISM  
OF HOW WE COULD ARRIVE AT MILITARY ASSESSMENTS AND  
BALANCE RATHER THAN TOWARD SPECIFIC REGIONS OR SUB-  
REGIONS, AND INVITED GENERAL GALKIN TO PROVIDE SOVIETS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 HELSIN 02369 241825Z

VIEWS IN THIS REGARD. GALKIN REPLIED THAT HE BELIEVED  
QUESTION OF DETERMINING MILITARY BALANCE WAS VERY  
COMPLEX SINCE BALANCE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES OR BLOCS  
WAS ONE THING, BUT THAT OF AN ENTIRE REGION WAS ANOTHER  
MATTER. GALKIN ASKED IF US VIEW OF MILITARY BALANCE  
TOOK DOMESTIC ARMS PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES INTO ACCOUNT.

2. RADM LYONS RESTATED US BELIEF THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES WERE CAPABLE OF INDEPENDANTLY ASSESSING CAPABILITIES OF FORCES IN BEING AND THEREBY DERIVING FEELING FOR STABILITY IN A GIVEN REGION OR SUB-REGION. CERTAINLY, THERE WERE COMPLEXITIES, BUT WE COULD ARRIVE AT ROUGH APPROXIMATIONS OF MILITARY CAPABILITIES. LYONS CONFIRMED THAT WE WOULD TAKE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES INTO CONSIDERATION. GENERAL GALKIN AGAIN VOICED DOUBT ABOUT ASSESSING REGIONAL SITUATIONS AND CITED EXAMPLE OF ANDEAN REGION WITH ROLE OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BRAZIL. LYONS QUESTIONED RELEVANCE OF BRAZIL'S MENTION IN CONTEXT OF ANDEAN REGION, AGAIN ASKING HOW SOVIETS GO ABOUT ASSESSING BALANCE. GALKIN REITERATED LINE TAKEN WITH SENNEWALD IN MAY, I.E., SOVIETS DEAL WITH ARMS REQUESTS ONLY ON GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL, EXAMINE PURPOSE, AMOUNTS AND TYPES, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC LEVELS, LOCAL PERSONNEL CAPABILITIES, AND CAPABILITIES OF NEIGHBORS. GALKIN EMPHASIZED THAT AID TO VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION WAS "WITHOUT ANY AMBIGUITY" IN ORDER TO DO ANYTHING TO ENABLE VICTIM TO GAIN UPPER HAND OVER AGRESSION AND "HERE ONE COULD NOT TALK ABOUT A BALANCE." GALKIN STATED HIS IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS HELP VICTIMS AND US OFTEN REPRESENTS AGGRESSORS. LYONS STRONGLY REFUTED THIS POINT.

3. GALKIN THEN ASKED HOW US WOULD "THEORETICALLY"  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 HELSIN 02369 241825Z

DETERMINE THE MILITARY BALANCE REGARDING CHINA. WAS CHINA A REGION OR SUB-REGION, DID ONE LOOK AT THE THREAT FROM NORTH, SOUTH, EAST OR WEST? LYONS NOTED IN RESPONSE THAT WE WERE NOT HERE TO DISCUSS PARTICULAR COUNTRIES; NEVERTHELESS, IN THEORY, CHINA WOULD BE COMPLICATED AND VARIOUS CRITERIA WOULD HAVE TO APPLY. AND ANY DETERMINATION OF THREAT WOULD LOOK AT THE SOURCE, BE IT NORTH, SOUTH OR WHEREEVER. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE FROM BASIC PROCEDURES IN MAKING SUCH AN ASSESSMENT. CONTINUING, LYONS REFERRED TO GALKIN'S REMARKS ABOUT GIVING THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION A PREPONDERANCE OF FORCE IN A CONFLICT SITUATION AND NOTED THAT IT WAS PRECISELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPERPOWERS IN THESE CASES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT SO AS NOT TO PRECLUDE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. HE THEN GAVE GALKIN A SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF VARIOUS FACTORS THAT COULD ENTER INTO OUR ASSESSMENT OF A GIVEN MILITARY BALANCE AND NOTED THAT ANY DIFFERENCES COULD BE TAKEN UP IN A CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM.

4. GALKIN THANKED LYONS FOR THE PRESENTATION AND STRESSED THAT THE USSR ALWAYS STANDS FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS. HOWEVER, IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT IF US-

SOVIET POLITICAL VIEWS DIFFERED, SO MIGHT THE SOLUTIONS  
AND ARMS TRANSFERS. THIS WAS WHY THE SOVIET SIDE PRO-  
POSED WE FIRST REACH AGREEMENT ON POLITICAL/LEGAL  
PRINCIPLES SINCE IT WOULD BE A SENSELESS EXERCISE TO  
CALCULATE THE MILITARY BALANCE WITHOUT THESE. LYONS  
REJOINED THAT POLITICAL/LEGAL CRITERIA WERE ONLY PART OF  
THE ANSWER. THEY DID NOT TELL US WHAT KIND AND HOW MANY  
ARMS TO TRANSFER. LYONS THEN PRESSED GALKIN TO PROVIDE  
THE SOIIVET VIEW OF ASSESSING THE MILITARY  
BALANCE AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETNG OF MILITARY REPRE-  
SENTATIVES ON JULY 26. GALKIN HEDGED BY SAYING HE  
WOULD THINK ABOUT IT BUT NOT PROMISE TO MAKE A PRESENT-  
ATION NEXT TIME. LYONS ENDED THE SESSION BY REITERATING  
THAT THE US STILL WANTED SOVIET VIEWS ON MILITARY  
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PAGE 04 HELSIN 02369 241825Z

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## Message Attributes

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